

other high school dropouts who had a desire to re-enter the system and complete their high school education. Dr. Jossell served as Teen Parent Counselor/Coordinator for two years and was later promoted to Principal/Director of the Y.O.U. Alternative Education Program. At this time, the program was operated in conjunction with the Quitman County School District. With this new appointment, Dr. Jossell received Certification in Educational Administration in 1994 from the University of Mississippi, and her Doctorate in Education in 2012 from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

After federal funds ended in support of the Y.O.U. Program in 1994, Dr. Jossell re-organized the program as a Community-Based Nonprofit to diversify the program's funding streams. Over the 26-year lifespan of Y.O.U., Dr. Jossell wrote and submitted grants garnering over 14 million dollars in Federal and State Grants focusing on education, health, mentoring, recreation and physical fitness services for high risk youth. As a result of these programs, several students received their G.E.D. were able to travel outside of the county (many for the first time) to professional football and basketball games; participated in organized youth sports programs; participated in male and female mentoring programs; and participated in Service Learning/School-to-Career projects that provided leadership skills and career exposure. Some of Y.O.U.'s alumni are principals, assistant principals, entrepreneurs, superintendents, doctors, educators, nurse practitioners, and more importantly, several decided to return to Quitman County to work as professionals in the county that embraced them as youth.

In January 2015, Dr. Jossell was given an assignment, that she believes was an appointment by God to run for Superintendent of Education. She strongly believes that every career path God had previously placed her on, provided the experience and fortitude she would need to be an effective Superintendent. Guided by the Holy Spirit, and with a platform touting transformation change, Dr. Jossell was elected as Superintendent of Education in August 2015 and took office January 2016. In a period of two years, the Quitman County School district went from an "F" accountability rating to a "C" performance rating. In 2018, the district's only elementary school was assigned an "A" accountability rating, the first in the history of the school system. Inclusive with improving their academic standing, the school district also went from a 76.9 percent graduation rate in 2016 to a 95.5 percent graduation rate in 2020, ranking them with the 6th highest graduation rate out of 448 high schools in the state. The district ranked 9th in the State with the lowest dropout rate, and 3rd in the State with the highest number of Special Service students graduating with a standard diploma. Dr. Jossell is quick to give Glory to God for this success, and recognition to an amazing Board, Administration, Faculty and Staff who truly believe that excellence is not an event, but an everyday practice that can be achieved regardless of their zip code.

Dr. Jossell's greatest cheerleader is her husband of 41 years, Pastor Michael E. Jossell. Together they have built a life of servitude to their family, church, and community. They are the proud parents of 5 adult children: Dr. Endre' Matthews; John S. Jossell, Michael E. Jossell, Jr., Jason D. Jossell, and Dr. Andrea M. Jossell; three beautiful grand-

daughters-Mckenzie Faith, Ava Grace, Olivia Joy and a grandson due in September.

Dr. Jossell is a Silver Star Member of the Iota Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Evelyn W. Jossell for her dedication to serving this great community and state.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF JAMES
CLIFTON CLARK, JR.

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of James Clifton Clark, Jr. of Sumpter Township, Michigan who passed away on June 7, 2021. His life of honorable service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Mr. Clark was born on September 24, 1942 to James and Marion Clark in Detroit, Michigan. The eldest of ten children. he studied engineering and earned a master's degree from Wayne State University. After completing his education, he went on to work at the headquarters of Ford Motor Company where he worked as a Quality Manager for 44 years.

A dedicated member of his community, Mr. Clark served his neighbors in Sumpter Township in countless ways. He served for years as Sumpter Township Building Inspector, on the Planning Commission, and on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Along with his father, he wrote the first ordinance for Sumpter Township. At the time of his passing, Mr. Clark was serving as Sumpter Township's Treasurer.

Mr. Clark was a trusted colleague and friend to many. He skillfully balanced his career, was committed to public service, and ensured he gave plenty of family time. Mr. Clark was known for being the family handyman and has built churches throughout the state of Ohio and built homes in the state of Michigan. Notably, he built the Clubhouse at Holiday West Mobile Home Community with the help of his family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of James Clifton Clark Jr., he was a dedicated public servant, a loving father, grandfather, uncle, and a friend to many. He will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Toni, children Jim, Loni, Melissa, Lisa, and Alisa, and his grandchildren, nieces, and nephews at this time.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
HARRY MELANDER

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2021

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Harry Melander on the occasion of his retirement as President of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council. During his more than four decades of union leadership and public service, Harry has made a lasting impact through his work on behalf of Min-

nesota's working families. Additionally, Harry has represented the interests of Minnesotans through his service as a member of the Metropolitan Council, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Board, the St. Paul Port Authority Board, and the Washington County Planning Commission, among other community leadership roles.

Harry began his career as a union carpenter in 1973 and quickly rose as a leader on behalf of his fellow labor brothers and sisters, becoming president the Carpenters Local 87 Union. Later he became a business representative for the St. Paul Building Trades Council, then executive secretary in 1997. Harry focused his work on building relationships throughout the community. Reaching out to elected officials, business and community leaders and developers, he cultivated relationships that are still present today, ultimately increasing the number of jobs for Building Trades union members.

After becoming Executive Secretary of St. Paul Building Trades in 2005, Harry was soon faced with the monumental challenge of navigating the industry through the economic collapse of 2008 when some crafts lost up to 70 percent of their work. But thanks in large part to Harry's advocacy and work to build partnerships with the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, state leaders and the City of Saint Paul, the industry was able to keep working on major public projects including the restoration of Saint Paul's Union Depot as the Twin Cities' multimodal transit hub and construction of the Green Line Light Rail Transit.

Since Harry became the president of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council in 2009, he has tirelessly promoted growth and advancement of affiliated unions, supported diversity and inclusion efforts in the construction industry, protected health and safety for all workers, and encouraged relationship building with employers, other labor organizations, and government officials. He has been a leader in the transformation toward clean energy jobs, and has navigated the council through the many challenges brought on in the past year by the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest that enveloped the Twin Cities after the death of George Floyd.

Throughout it all, Harry has been an unwavering voice for Minnesota's working families, and a dedicated public servant. It has been my great pleasure to work closely with Harry on many projects and priorities over the years, and I know I speak for many in the community of Saint Paul and the East Metro when I say that he has been a tremendous asset to the labor movement. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the outstanding career of one of our state's most effective leaders, Harry Melander.

HONORING MS. MELA LOUISE
NORMAN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my staff to recognize an essential, founding member of my team, Ms. Mela Louise Norman.